

As Azerbaijanis throughout the world commemorate the massacre and continue to grieve the loss of loved ones, let us commit ourselves to supporting non-violent efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

REMEMBERING THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the Khojaly Massacre, and to honor the victims of this horrendous act.

The appalling massacre perpetrated on the innocent people of Khojaly in February 1992 is no less shocking 28 years later. One of the worst atrocities ever committed in the South Caucasus, justice has still not been delivered and 150 civilians are still missing.

As we demand respect for human rights and democratic accountability within the international community, it is important that we continue to remember what happened in Khojaly and bring those responsible to account.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DONALD G. STRATTON

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Donald G. Stratton, who passed away on February 15, 2020 after a lifetime of service to his country. Mr. Stratton was a dedicated husband of 69 years, a father, grandfather, great-grandfather, New York Times best-selling author, USS *Arizona* Survivor, and a champion of the memory for those who did not make it home.

Mr. Donald Stratton was born July 14, 1922 in Inavale, Nebraska to Robert and Jessie Stratton. After growing up in Nebraska and graduating from Red Cloud High School, Donald attended Navy bootcamp in 1940. After graduation from bootcamp he was given orders to join the USS *Arizona* in dry dock at the Navy shipyards in Bremerton, Washington. Upon completion of her maintenance and retrofit in Washington, the USS *Arizona* steamed across the Pacific to join her fleet in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in early 1941.

On the morning of December 7, 1941, Seaman First Class Stratton was on his way to visit a shipmate in sick bay when the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor began. He immediately raced to his battle station, winding through ship spaces and climbing three ladders to reach the *Arizona's* sky control platform, where he yelled coordinates to the gun crews firing at the incoming waves of Japanese bombers. Just minutes after he arrived, a bomb struck a direct blow to the *Arizona* hitting the ammunition stores, lifting the 35,000 ton ship out of the water, and sending a fireball hundreds of feet skyward.

Seaman First Class Stratton and his shipmates in the director were surrounded by flames. He and five other sailors were able to

navigate the burning wreckage and signal for help. Boatswain's Mate Second Class Joe George from the USS *Vestal* came to their rescue and saved their lives by repeatedly throwing a heaving line until the men were able to secure it and climb seventy feet, hand over hand, to safety above the inferno that raged below.

Boatswain's Mate Second Class Joe George disobeyed a direct order to cut away from the *Arizona* and instead courageously fought to provide a means of escape for the sailors. Mr. Stratton credited Joe George for saving his life that day and petitioned for years to have his actions recognized. Mr. Stratton called and wrote numerous letters, ultimately meeting with President Trump before Joe George was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" Device for his heroic actions that day.

Mr. Stratton was medically discharged from the Navy in 1942 and returned to Nebraska. Ever the fighter, he decided to reenlist a year later, deny orders to a stateside posting, and eventually joined the USS *Stack* on its way to the Pacific. He fought in the invasion of the Philippines, the invasion of Okinawa, and on patrol missions throughout the Pacific theater.

After returning from war, Donald Stratton traveled the world, raised a family, and devoted his life to preserving the story of what happened that day. Donald is survived by his wife of 69 years Velma, son Randy (Kathy) Stratton, brother Willie Stratton, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Stratton was a hero. A selfless American who dedicated his life to our country and fought to have his shipmates remembered long after they, or he, had passed to another life. It was a privilege to have met Mr. Stratton and it is an honor to stand and commemorate his incredible and full life.

HONORING MR. FULTON W. WALKER

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Fulton W. Walker, a three-year World War II Veteran of the United States Army. On February 28, 2020, Mr. Fulton W. Walker will be recognized for his service and commitment to the United States and presented with his service medals.

Mr. Walker, of Emerson and Texarkana and resident of the Fourth District of Arkansas, began his service during World War II in 1943 at Fort Knox, Kentucky where he trained as part of a tank battalion. He later transferred to Fort Campbell, Kentucky as a member of a transportation outfit where he learned how to drive military trucks to haul supplies.

In July 1944, he deployed overseas to the European Theater of Operations where he served in England, France, Germany and wherever service needs required. He worked tirelessly as a truck driver transporting supplies from coastal docks to the frontlines, all during the darkness of night to avoid enemy detection.

At the end of the war, he returned home to Arkansas and re-entered the Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal College (AM&N), now the University of Arkansas at

Pine Bluff (UAPB). He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and English in May 1950. He then moved on to graduate school earning a Master's in Education Administration from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 1957.

He then served in several different capacities including as an English teacher and high school basketball coach in Rison, Arkansas. In 1952, he accepted a teaching position in the grade 1–12 school in Star City, Arkansas and two years later became principal, serving in this position until 1965. The Pine Bluff School District hired him into his next assignment where he served as elementary school principal, middle school principal, district central office federal title I program coordinator and finally assistant superintendent in charge of all federal programs for the Pine Bluff School District.

Mr. Walker mentored many students throughout his 36-year career and served as a role model to all he interacted with. His faithful service to students in Southeast Arkansas is a testament to his military service in putting others before self.

I am honored to recognize Mr. Fulton W. Walker and all African American veterans of World War II for their rich history of service and bravery. I thank each and every one of them for protecting the freedoms of this country, and hope their legacy continues for generations to come.

HONORING PAM WILLIAMS AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Pam Williams, the Director of the Isiserettes Drill and Drum Corps in Des Moines, as the Iowan of the Week. As the Isiserettes celebrate their 40th anniversary this year, I know this longstanding community program relies on the contributions and dedication of Ms. Williams to the Isiserettes Drill and Drum Corps.

Ms. Williams, or Ms. Pam as her students call her, co-founded the Isiserettes in 1980, a time when there weren't many creative outlets for young African American kids in Iowa. Since then, the Isiserettes have become an icon in the Des Moines Metro, with performances at the Iowa State Fair, parades all over the city, and even music videos with local musicians. They also perform nationally, hold several titles and have earned the honor of performing in both of President Obama's Inaugural Parades. We are deeply proud to see them representing Iowa as they travel across this country.

Even at the age of 75, Ms. Pam never misses a rehearsal. You can always find her working hard on choreography and helping students reach the high expectations she's set for them. Students between 7 and 18 years old dedicate themselves to early morning practices on hot summer days, and must maintain good grades in order to participate. As a result, they boast a 91 percent graduation rate amongst members of their team. Ms. Pam's students describe her as one of the